## FACT SHEET: Final Environmental Impact Statements on Proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Farm sites and Proposed Amendment to Rawlins Resource Management Plan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the final environmental impact statements for a proposed wind power complex that would generate up to 3,000 megawatts of power. The Power Company of Wyoming, LLC, has applied for a right-of-way to build approximately 1,000 wind turbines south of Rawlins, Wyoming. Chokecherry and Sierra Madre are two distinct sites approximately five miles apart which are both being analyzed together. When combined, they comprise the largest commercial wind generation facility proposed in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world.

The BLM is reviewing the proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Farm sites as well as on a proposed amendment to the Rawlins Resource Management Plan to accommodate the facility.

In addition to the wind turbines, each of which would generate 1.5 to 3 megawatts of electricity, the proposed project includes access roads, underground electric gathering lines, an overhead transmission line and substations to connect the generated power to the electric grid. Construction would take an estimated three to four years.

The BLM is working closely with federal, tribal, state and local partners, members of the conservation communities and interested stakeholders to review the project. A number of environmental and wildlife mitigation measures are being considered, including precluding development within sage grouse core areas, restrictions on timing of activities, and enhancing sage grouse habitat outside of the project area.

Primary mitigation measures for raptors will be included in the development of the avian protection plan stipulated in the Environmental Impact Statements. Additional monitoring and remediation efforts will be required for the life of the project for a host of wildlife species.

Tribal consultation on the proposed project was initiated in 2009. Tribal representatives toured the site and have had several meetings with BLM, which continues to consult with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Northern Arapahoe, Eastern Shoshone, Northern Ute, and Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux. The Programmatic Agreement for cultural resources will incorporate measures to continue consultation through the life of the project.

An amendment to the Bureau of Land Management's Rawlins Resource Management Plan is required to review the visual resources associated with the proposal. Volume I of the Environmental Impact Statement deals with the amendment and analyzes alternatives for planning and managing visual resources in the proposed project area. Volume II analyzes the proposed project itself.

Publication of the notice of availability initiates a 30-day review and protest period. Protests must be submitted in writing by July 30, 2012 to:

Regular Mail: Overnight Mail: BLM Director (210) BLM Director (210)

Attention: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 71383

Attention: Brenda Williams
20 M Street SE, Room 2134LM

Washington, D.C. 20024-1383 Washington, D.C. 20003

Please be aware that your comment may be made publicly available. While you may ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

More information is available at

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html